

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a plurality of user-selectable software application programs for use with a computer device in accordance with a task disk control file contained on storage media external to or removable from the computer device, said method comprising:

detecting an insertion of the storage media into the computer device;

activating the storage media to establish communication with the computer device;

determining that the task disk control file indicates the presence of the plurality of user-selectable software application programs located on the storage media, wherein the task disk control file includes a plurality of task disk control sub-files;

providing from the task disk control file a list of the plurality of software application programs located on the storage media;

selecting one of the plurality of software application programs for execution, wherein a user performs said selecting;

providing special instructions in a the plurality of task disk control sub-files corresponding to the plurality of software application programs, wherein the plurality of task disk control sub-files is located on the storage media, and the special instructions in each task disk control sub-file include configuration information, software launching information, data file storage information, and clean-up information;

transferring files specified in the configuration information and configuring the computer device in accordance with the configuration information, wherein said transferring and said configuring changes the computer device from a first state to a second state;

executing the selected one of the plurality of software application programs by the task disk control file configured to provide commands to execute the selected one of the plurality of software application programs;

launching the selected one of the plurality of software application programs in accordance with the software launching information on the task disk control file wherein the task disk control file is configured to provide commands to launch the selected one of the plurality of software application programs;

monitoring events to determine various stages in the operation of the selected one of the plurality of software application programs; and

unconfiguring the computer device upon termination of the selected one of the plurality of software application programs by removing files transferred to the computing device and configuration settings in accordance with the clean-up information to essentially return the computer device to the first state.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the list of software application programs only includes the programs having a corresponding task disk control sub-file.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said transferring files to said computer device to create said second state includes transferring one or more of the following:

linked library files, device drivers, path information, environmental information, and registry entries.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said unconfiguring step comprises removing in accordance with the clean-up information all files transferred to create said second state.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
selecting a plurality of software application programs for execution;
configuring the computer device for each of the plurality of software application programs selected by transferring one or more files to said computer device, wherein the files include one or more of the following:

linked library files, device drivers, path information, environmental information, and registry entries.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising unconfiguring the computer device upon termination of each of the executed software application programs by removing in accordance with the clean-up information any files transferred during configuration and any new files created during execution of each terminated software application program.

26. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the storage media comprises a flash memory drive.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the storage media comprises a CompactFlash drive.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the storage media comprises an optical drive.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the storage media comprises a removable magnetic media drive.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the storage media comprises an external hard disk drive.

31-39 (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said selecting is performed by the user using a text-based menu.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said selecting is performed by the user using a graphical user interface.

42. (New) A method of managing a plurality of user-selectable software application programs for use with a computer device in accordance with a task disk control file contained on storage media external to or removable from the computer device, said method comprising:

detecting an insertion of the storage media into the computer device;

activating the storage media to establish communication with the computer device;

determining that the task disk control file indicates the presence of the plurality of user-selectable software application programs located on the storage media, wherein the task disk control file includes a plurality of task disk control sub-files;

providing from the task disk control file a list of the plurality of software application programs located on the storage media;

selecting one of the plurality of software application programs for execution, wherein a user performs said selecting;

providing special instructions in the plurality of task disk control sub-files corresponding to the plurality of software application programs, wherein the plurality of task disk control sub-files is located on the storage media, and the special instructions in each task disk control sub-file include configuration information, software launching information, data file storage information, and clean-up information;

specifying in a pre-run section of at least one of the plurality of task disk control sub-files, files to be copied to a hard drive of the computer device for executing at least one of the plurality of software application programs;

transferring files specified in the configuration information according to the pre-section and configuring the computer device in accordance with the configuration information, wherein

said transferring and said configuring changes the computer device from a first state to a second state;

executing the selected one of the plurality of software application programs by the task disk control file configured to provide commands to execute the selected one of the plurality of software application programs;

launching the selected one of the plurality of software application programs in accordance with the software launching information on the task disk control file wherein the task disk control file is configured to provide commands to launch the selected one of the plurality of software application programs;

monitoring events to determine various stages in the operation of the selected one of the plurality of software application programs; and

unconfiguring the computer device upon termination of the selected one of the plurality of software application programs by removing files transferred to the computing device and configuration settings in accordance with the clean-up information to essentially return the computer device to the first state, wherein the unconfiguring of the computer device is in accordance with a clean-up section associated with the task disk control file, wherein the clean-up section removes the at least one of the plurality of task disk control sub-files specified in the pre-run section to be copied to the hard drive of the computer device.